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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

GRID PATTERNS IN THE AKSUYEK AND KARASAY AREAS, USSR

Declass Review
by NIMA/DOD



ARMY



NAVY



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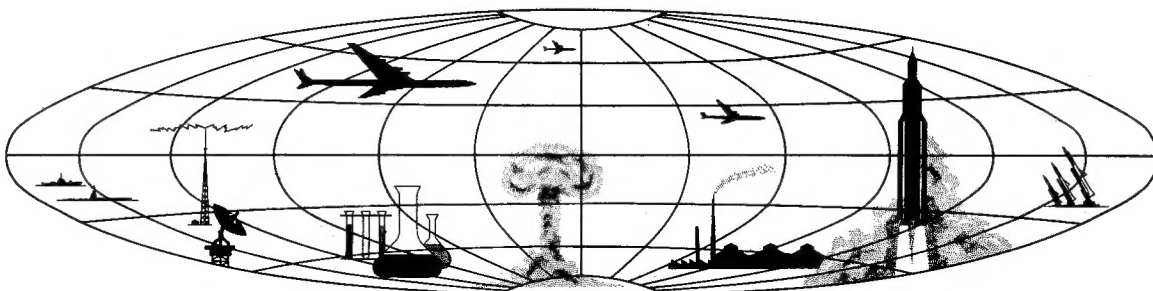


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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

NPIC/R-45/63

GRID PATTERNS IN THE AKSUYEK AND KARASAY AREAS, USSR

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Extensive grid patterns have been observed for some time in the Aksuyek (44-38N 74-31E) and Karasay (44-40N 73-48E) areas* south of Lake Balkhash, USSR (Figure 1). 1/ Recent photographic coverage of these areas reveals that activity is continuing: several grid areas

have been expanded, only one significantly; numerous new buildings have been constructed in the Karasay area; open-pit mining at Aksuyek remains in operation; and several new areas of mine tailings have appeared near Karasay. The road south from Aksuyek is being improved, and construction has begun on a possible dam.

The appearance of new mining activity in this region further supports the probability that the grid patterns are associated with geophysical or geochemical prospecting.

* Grid patterns 50-75 nautical miles southeast of Aksuyek and Karasay near Otar (43-32N 75-13E) are the subject of a separate report 2/ which was prepared as the first part of NPIC project JN-77/62.

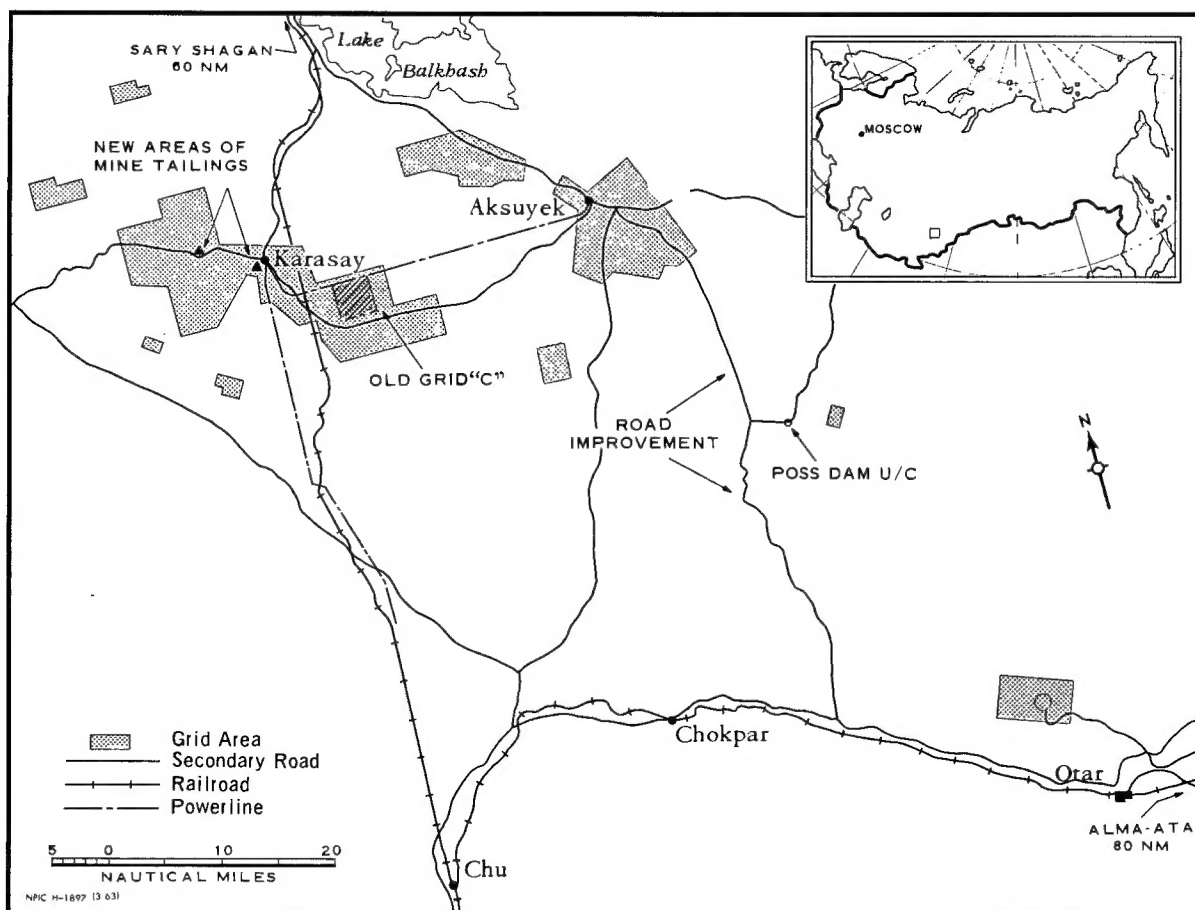


FIGURE 1. GRID PATTERNS IN THE AKSUYEK AND KARASAY AREAS. Grid patterns near Otar are covered in a separate report.

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GRID PATTERNS

[redacted] eight grid patterns had been identified in the Aksuyek area and 11 in the Karasay area. 1/ Changes since then have been relatively minor, except for a considerable expansion of the grid area "C" to the southeast of Karasay (Figure 1). Some of the older grid patterns are becoming indistinct and

their boundaries are difficult to determine. Grid "C", however, is quite distinct; it is of the dense-array type and has shown a 100-percent increase in area [redacted]

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AKSUYEK AREA

No changes of great significance have taken place in the Aksuyek area since [redacted]

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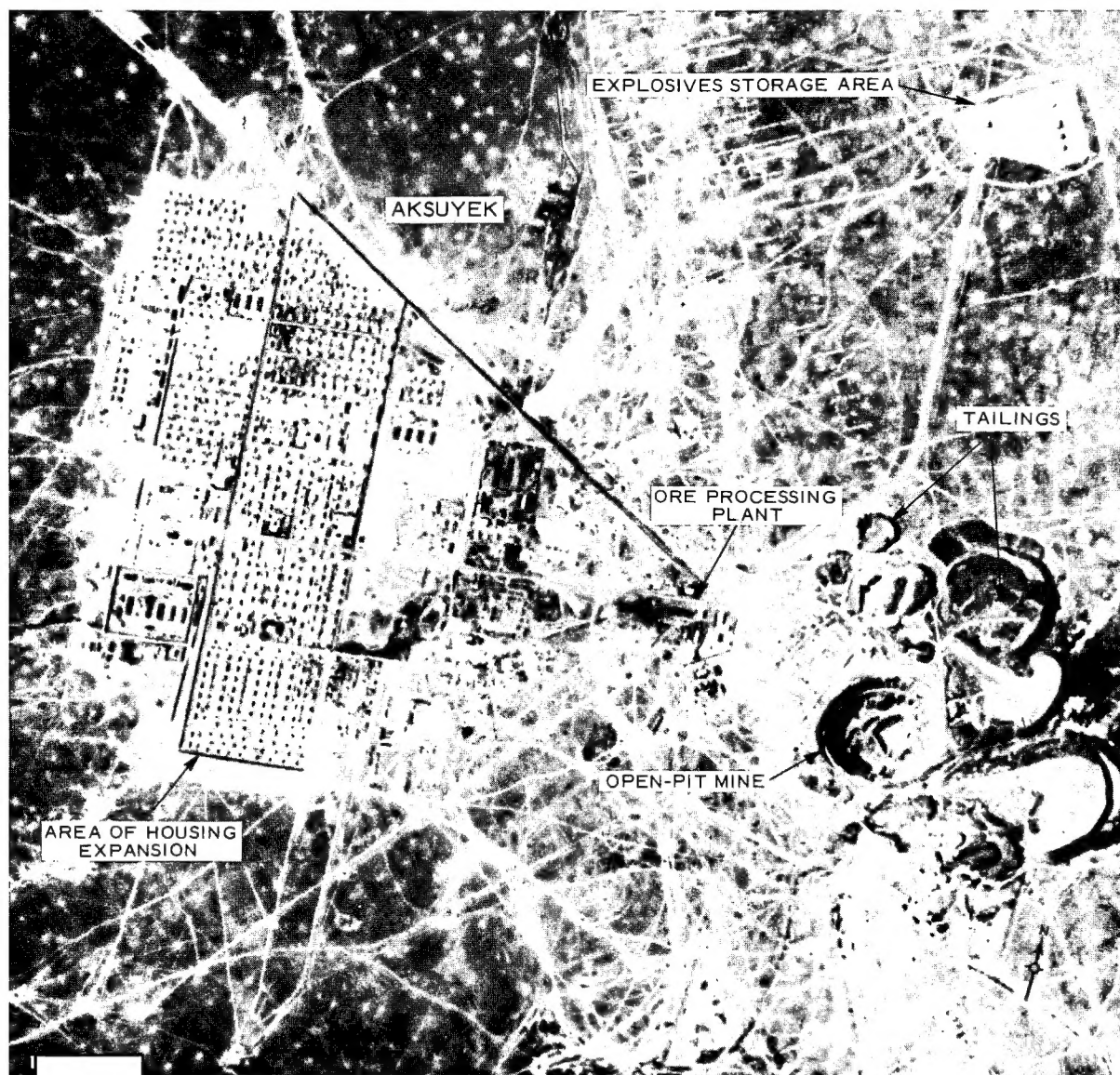


FIGURE 2. AKSUYEK AREA [redacted]

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(Figure 2). Minor changes include construction of approximately 60 new buildings, most of which appear to be housing units; removal of about 10 scattered buildings; continued mining as evidenced by the larger diameter of the open-pit mine and the larger piles of tailings; and a small enlargement of the secured explosives storage area. There is also activity approximately 25 nautical miles south of Aksuyek which may indicate the first stages of dam construction (Figure 1).

The most evident of these is the appearance of six areas of mine tailings, three immediately west of Karasay (Figure 3) and three several miles farther west (Figure 4). Three new secured areas spaced along a road from Karasay east to the railroad and containing a total of 50 buildings are also of importance (Figure 3). Changes in Karasay itself consist of the addition of 22 scattered buildings, 12 of which are probably housing units.

KARASAY AREA

Several changes of significance have taken place in the Karasay area since [REDACTED]

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

Transportation facilities and utilities of the Aksuyek and Karasay areas remain relatively unchanged since [REDACTED]. The road south from

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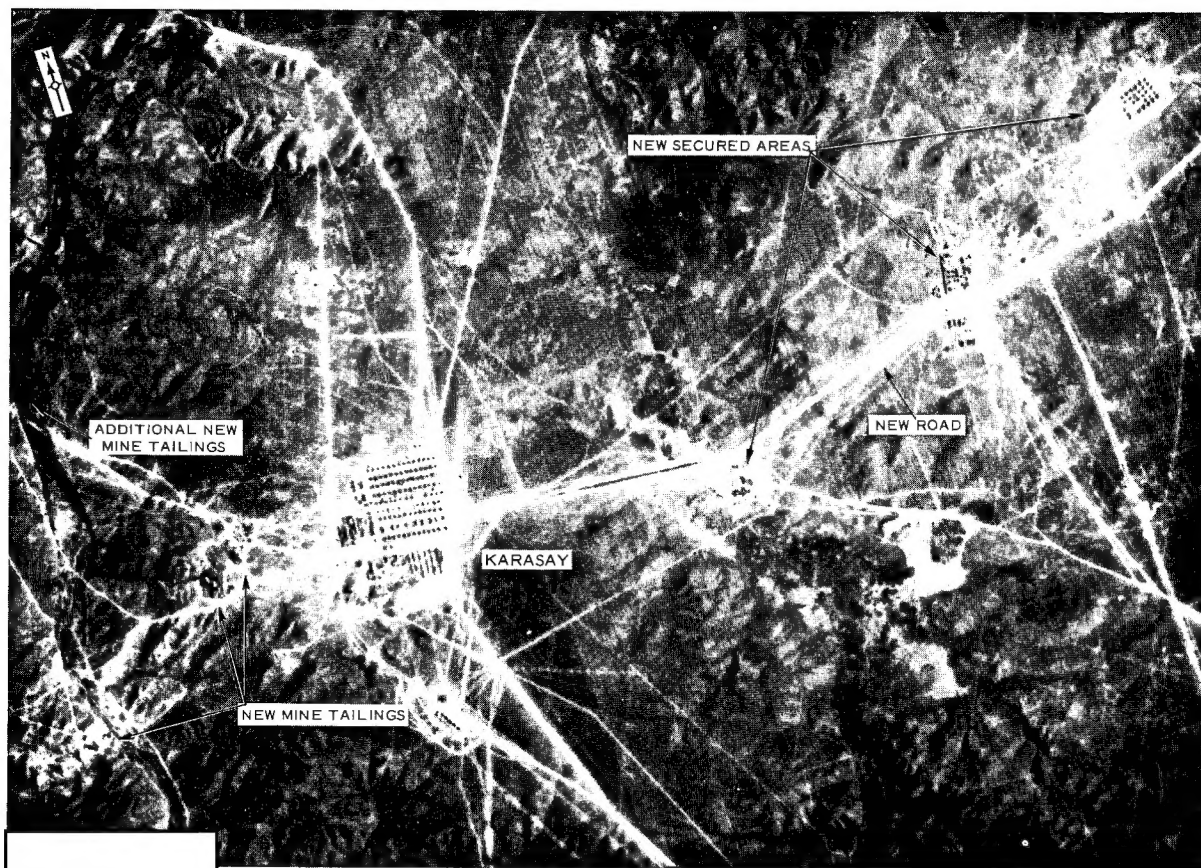


FIGURE 3. KARASAY AREA

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FIGURE 4. NEW MINE TAILINGS WEST OF KARASAY

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Aksuyek is being improved and straightened, and several new minor roads support the increased mining activity around Karasay.

CONCLUSIONS

The function of the numerous grid patterns in the Akuyek and Karasay areas cannot be specifically determined at this time. However,

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REFERENCES

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

25X2



MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. World Aeronautical Chart 245, 4th ed, Dec 56, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

AMS. Series ESPA-1, Sheet NL43-10, 1st ed, Nov 61, scale 1:250,000 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

AMS. Series ESPA-1, Sheet NL43-11, 1st ed, Apr 62, scale 1:250,000 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheets 0245-20AL and 245-25AL, 1st ed, Mar 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-54/62, Unidentified Grid Patterns in Aksuyek and Karasay Areas, USSR, Apr 62 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

[redacted]

CIA. PIC/JR-1029/61, Mining Complex, Aksuyek, USSR, Jul 61 (SECRET [redacted])

[redacted] (Downgrading Prohibited)

[redacted]

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REQUIREMENT

CIA. OSI/R-65/62, Apr 62

CIA. OSI/R-144/62, Jul 62

NPIC PROJECT

JN-77/62 (second and final part)

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